

Ambresbury Monastery.

By the REV. CANON JACKSON, F.S.A.

THIS paper does not in any way refer to the original monastery of Monks or Friars, on the Hill of Ambrius or Ambrosius, which in the historical account of the erection of Stonehenge in the 5th century is mentioned as the burial-place of the massacred British chieftains: but to a later House of Nuns which stood upon the flat ground near the river Avon, close to the existing church of Ambresbury.

This House of Nuns had been founded about A.D. 980, by Elfrida, Queen Dowager of King Edgar, in atonement for the murder of her son-in-law Edward the Martyr at Corfe Castle. It was of the Benedictine Order, and under the patronage of St. Mary, and of Melorus a Cornish saint whose relics were preserved here, but of whose title to a place in the calendar more was known then than now.

From the time of its foundation it continued an independent house till the reign of Henry II., when (A.D. 1177) irregularities brought down the King's displeasure, and the community of Nuns was dissolved. The house was then reformed, and made a cell, or house subordinate to the foreign Abbey of Font Evrault in Anjou, from which a fresh Prioress and twenty four Nuns were introduced into Wiltshire. The French Abbess, Johanna de Gennes, was inducted by Richard Archbishop of Canterbury in the presence of the King, of Bartholomew, Bishop of Exeter, and others.¹ From that time it became one of the most select retreats for Ladies in the higher ranks of life. Among royal or noble ladies connected with Ambresbury we find the following:—

¹ From an old French letter printed in *New Monasticon* (Amesbury, No. x.) it appears that there were also some "Brethren," probably a staff of chaplains, &c., attached to the Monastery who as well as the sister-hood were placed under the new Abbess's controul.

I. ELEANOR OF BRITANY, a Nun of this House. She was daughter of Geoffry Plantagenet (3rd son of Henry II.) and sister of Prince Arthur. After being imprisoned at Bristol, and (on her brother's death) at Corfe Castle, she lived here but appears to have died at St. James's Priory, Bristol, as Tanner (p. 479) mentions an order, in 1240, for the removal of her body from St. James's to Ambresbury.

II. ELEANOR QUEEN DOWAGER OF KING HENRY III. She was the second daughter and coheirress of Raymond Berenger, count of Provence. In 1287, fifteen years after her husband's death, she took the veil here about the time of the Feast of St. John the Baptist (24th June), her dower being confirmed to her, and her profession being dated 1286.

In M. A. Everett Wood's "Letters of Royal and Illustrious Ladies," 1846, is the following notice of her connexion with Ambresbury.¹

"A contemporaneous chronicler gives an interesting account of her conventual habits. He tells us that she filled her hands with good works; that she spent her whole time in orisons, vigils, and works of piety; that she was a mother to the neighbouring poor, especially to the orphans, widows and monks; and that her praise ought to resound above that of all other women. Besides other large charities, she distributed every Friday £5 in silver—a large sum in those days—to the neighbouring poor. When she exchanged the crown for the veil—the proud title of Queen of England for that touchingly simple one of 'humble nun of Fontevrand,' Eleanor seems indeed to have laid aside the 'pomps and vanities' of the world, and to have devoted herself, with the zealous energy that characterised her ardent temperament, to works of religion. The present letter is in favour of the abbess of Fontevrand, who naturally looked for and found a powerful advocate in her royal votaress. The subsequent one appeals too forcibly to the feelings of domestic life to need comment. They were both written between 1286 and 1291, the year of Eleanora's death. Much of the correspondence of this queen, scattered over many

¹ Mr. Edward Kite of Devizes was so good as to supply the information contained in the work referred to.

years, still remains in the Tower of London, of which a small portion only has been printed in the *Fœdera*. Her letters are principally written in Norman French, which was almost the native language of this Provençal Queen."

1. Eleanora Queen Dowager of England to her son, Edward I.

"To the most noble prince and our dearest son, Edward by God's grace King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Guienne, Eleanora, humble nun of the order of Fontevrand of the convent of Amesbury, health and our blessing.

Sweetest son, our Abbess of Fontevrand has prayed us that we would entreat the King of Sicily to guard and preserve the franchises of her house, which some people wish to damage. And, because we know well that he will do much more for your prayer than for ours, for you have better deserved it, we pray you good son, that for love of us you will request and especially require this thing from him; and that he would command that the things which the Abbess holds in his lordship may be in his protection and guard, and that neither she nor hers may be molested or grieved. Good son, if it please you, command that the billet be hastily delivered. We wish you health in the sweet Jesus, to whom we commend you."

2. The same to the same. (Original Letter No. 1106, Tower of London. French).

"To the most noble prince and her very dear son, Edward by God's grace King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Aquitaine, Eleanora, humble nun of the order of Fontevrand, of the Convent of Amesbury, wishes health and her blessing.

Sweetest son, we know well how great is the desire that a mother has to see her child when she has been long away from him, and that dame Margaret de Neville, companion of Master John Giffard, has not seen for a long time past her child, who is in the keeping of dame Margaret de Weyland, and has a great desire to see him. We pray you, sweetest son, that you will command and pray the aforesaid Margaret de Weyland, that she will suffer that the mother may have the solace of herⁿ child for some time, after her desire. Dearest son, we commend you to God. Given at Amesbury the 4th day of March."

The Queen Dowager died 1291 or 1292. King Edward I. came back from Scotland to give her a sumptuous funeral. Her body was buried at Ambresbury, but her heart in the church of the Friars Minors, London.¹

¹ Leaving for a moment the history of Amesbury monastery, the casual mention of this Queen's name brings to memory that of a mysterious and remarkable person to whom she owed her elevation to the throne of England, but about whom one would wish that something more could be discovered. The Queen (as already stated) was one of the daughters of Raymond Berenger, (or

III. THE PRINCESS MARY, sixth daughter of King Edward I., took the veil as a Nun of this house, or rather as a Nun of Font Evrault but resident at Ambresbury in A.D. 1285. (13. Edw. I.) An account of this ceremony, in which thirteen noble young ladies entered with her, is given in Mrs. Green's *Lives of the Princesses of England*. vol. ii. p. 405. The Princess is said in one record to have been Prioress: but this is not confirmed. Her retreat was against the wishes of the King and Queen but was urged by the Queen Dowager. For the maintenance (the "*Camera*," as it was called) of his daughter, King Edward allowed at first £100 a year. In 1291 he increased this by £20 a year of oak timber out of Chute Forest and £20 from Buckholt Forest for her fuel: the Sheriff of Hants being charged to see the said fuel duly delivered at the King's expense. The King also assigned to her 20 casks of wine yearly to be delivered by the Bailiff of the port of Southampton. By a later deed, in 1301, he gave her in lieu of all this,

Belinger, in Italian, Berlinghieri) Count of Provence. The Count had four daughters, all of whom became Queens. Margaret the eldest was married to Louis IX. (St. Louis) of France. Eleanor, the second daughter, was wife of Henry III. of England. Sanchia, the third, married Henry's brother, Richard Earl of Cornwall, King of the Romans and of Almaine, and Beatrice, the youngest, was wife to Charles of Anjou, King of Naples and Sicily, brother to Louis. The mysterious person through whose able management these four royal matches were arranged is briefly known to us as one Romèo. [This name signified a person who went on pilgrimage to Rome. It is familiar to us in Shakespeare as Romeo the *e* being pronounced short: but properly the pronunciation was *Romayo*]. He appeared as a pilgrim at the court of Provence, under that *assumed name*, and rose through extraordinary cleverness to be superintendent of Raymond Berenger's finances, and affairs in general. But after a long and faithful stewardship certain enemies about the court filled Raymond's mind with unjust suspicions, and upon an account being demanded from Romèo of the revenue which he had carefully husbanded, and which his master had lavishly disbursed, Romèo simply called for his little mule, the staff and scrip, with which, as a stranger from the shrine of St. James in Galicia, he had entered the Count's service: and so, parted as he came: nor was it ever known who he was or whither he went. Such is G. Villani's account, Lib. vi., c. 92. Dante has rescued him from oblivion by giving to him a place in the planet Mercury: the sphere which the great poet furnishes with the good spirits of those who laboured for honour and renown but were defrauded of it.

" Within the pearl that now encloseth us
Shines Romeo's light, whose goodly deed and fair
Met ill acceptance," &c. (Paradiso. Canto, vi.)

Corsham manor worth £97 a year, also from Wilton borough and Berford £4 a year, from Sherston manor (N. Wilts) £60 a year, Porstock co. Dorset, £18, Hurdcot co. Somerset, £17, and from Freshwater and Whitfield in the Isle of Wight, £70 13s. 4d., being total £266 13s. 4d. a year. Her brother King Edward II. gave her in 1317, a further allowance of 100 marks (£66 13s. 4d.); to be paid partly by the value of 10 casks of wine from Southampton.

“Many curious and interesting particulars respecting her,” (says M. A. Everett Wood) “are to be found in the wardrobe accounts of the period. From these we gather very different ideas of conventual life in the thirteenth century from those that we are wont to form of it in the nineteenth. During the earlier years of her profession Mary was under the government of her grandmother, Eleanora of Provence, who entered the convent in 1286, but as she advanced in years she was by no means confined within the walls of the cloister. She paid frequent visits to the courts of her father and brother; she went on pilgrimages to the most famous shrines; nay, when the state of her health required it, she was even permitted to change her residence for the sake of the air. On two occasions she took upon herself a singular office for a veiled lady—she attended her step mother Queen Margaret during her confinement of her second son Edmund of Woodstock, and afterwards accompanied the royal mother on a pilgrimage of thanksgiving. A few years afterwards she performed the same good office for her niece Elizabeth de Burgh. In the affairs of the convent Mary took an active part; though she never aspired to the rank of Prioress, she was invested with power to visit all the establishments of the same order in England, and to administer discipline, reproof or correction, as she thought fit. She closed a life of unwearied activity about the year 1333, having survived by some years the whole of her family. The following letter was written to her brother Edward II., about the election of a Prioress of Amesbury. The nuns were always anxious to secure one of their own Convent as their superior, while the Abbess of Fontevrand, with whom the choice rested, frequently imposed upon them a Prioress from the

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parent Abbey. Her 'cousin the Abbess,' of whom Mary speaks, was Eleanor of Bretagne, granddaughter of Henry III., by his daughter Beatrice, who had been educated at Amesbury, and subsequently became Abbess of Fontevrand. The letter is undated, but from its being written at Swainton, it was probably penned subsequently to 1315, when that manor became the property of the Princess in exchange for that of Cosham in Wiltshire, and before the year 1317, when Eleanor of Bretagne ceased to be Abbess of Fontevrand."

The Princess Mary, to her brother King Edward II.

"To the very high and noble prince, her very dear lord and brother, my lord Edward, by the grace of God King of England, his sister Mary sends health and all manner of honour and reverence.

Very dear Sire, as a long time has passed since God did His will upon our prioress Dambert, we immediately after her death sent to our very dear cousin the lady Abbess of Fontevrand, both on my part and on that of the Convent, asking for a lady from this our Convent, to wit, for the Lady Isabella, whom we understand to be well able and sufficient for the office, that she might be granted to us for our prioress. And we thought, dear sire, that she (the Abbess) would have willingly granted us our request, for she is bound to do so since she was brought up and veiled amongst us, and so she should neither wish nor permit that the church should be so long without prelates; but as yet we have had no answer, only we understand from certain people that she intends to send us a prioress from beyond the sea there, and a prior by her counsel out there. And know, certainly, my very dear brother, that should she send any other than one belonging to our own Convent, it would prove matter of discord in the Convent, and of the destruction of the goods of the church, which I know well, sire, that you would not suffer willingly and wittingly; wherefore I pray you dearest lord and brother, and require you, both for the love of me and of our Convent, which after God trust surely in you, that you would please to send word to my said lady abbess, that she do not undertake to burden our church with any prioress out of the Convent, nor with prior other than the one we have now, but that she would grant us her whom we have requested. Do this, most dearest brother, that our Convent may receive your aid and sustenance in this case as they have always done in their needs. May Jesus Christ give you a long life, my dearest brother. Written at Swainton, in the Isle of Wight, the 9th day of May."

IV. LEONORA, half-sister of the Princess Mary, and ninth daughter of King Edward, lived at Ambresbury Nunnery with her: and dying 1311, was buried at Beaulieu Monastery, Hants.

V. MARGARET COBHAM of the great House of Cobham in Kent was a Nun here in 19 Edw. III.

The LIST OF PRIORESSES OR ABBESSES is very imperfect. In the following are one or two names not hitherto noticed.¹

- A.D. 1211. EMELINA. (Hunter's Berkshire Fines, p. 145.)
1294. JOAN DE GENNES, from Font Evrault.
1308. JOHANNA. (Wilts Institutions.)
—— DAMBERT. (See preceding letter.)
1349. MARGERY DE PIREBROOKE. (Wilts Institutions.)
1420. SIBILLA DE MONTACUTE, died this year. (Pedigree of Duke of Manchester.)
1438. JOHANNA. (Wilts Institutions.)
1486. 16th May, ALICE FISHER. (See Wilts Collections, Aubrey & Jackson, p. 199, "Wanborough.")
1534. FLORENCE BORMEWE. (Valor Eccles.)
1539. JOHANNA DARELL. The last.

"As early as 1535 or 1536," (says M. A. Everett Wood) "an attempt had been made on the part of (Secretary) Cromwell's emissaries to persuade the prioress voluntarily to surrender her monastery into the King's hands, but this she steadily refused. Dr. Tregonnel and his fellow commissioners thus addressed Cromwell on the subject":—

"'We came to Ambresbury, and there communed with the Abbess for the accomplishment of the King's highness' commission in like sort; and, albeit we have used as many ways with her as our poor wits could attain, yet, in the end we could not, by any persuasions, bring her to any conformity, but at all times she resteth and so remaineth in these terms: 'If the King's highness command me to go from this house I will gladly go, though I beg my bread; and as for pension I care for none.' In these terms she was in all her communication, praying us many times to trouble her no farther herein for she had declared her full mind, in the which we might plainly gather of her words she was fully fixed before our coming.'

¹ In the New Monasticon (p. 331), and in Sir R. C. Hoare's "Amesbury," p. 72, the first known Abbess is said to have been Isabella of Lancaster, fourth daughter of Henry, Earl of Lancaster, and grand-daughter to Edmund Crouchback son of Henry III., and the date given to her is A.D. 1202. This date must certainly be an oversight; as the Earl of Lancaster died 1345. But it is very doubtful whether she was an Abbess here at all. Aconbury in co. Hereford, and not Amesbury in Wilts, appears to have been the nunnery over which Isabella of Lancaster presided. See Notes and Queries, 3rd series, vol. vii., p. 76.

Her steadiness averted for a while the dreaded crisis, but at length the Royal mandate arrived. Very sorrowful were the feelings with which many of the recluses abandoned the houses where they had intended to find an Asylum to the close of life, and to which some of them had bequeathed their ample fortunes, and found themselves dependant on the capricious charity of Henry VIII., but their only resource was in the mournful submissiveness of which the following letter affords a specimen. The death of the writer almost immediately after, saved her from any share in the impending calamities of her convent."

Florence Bormewe, Prioress, to Lord Cromwell, Lord Privy Seal.

"Right honourable my singular good lord,

I humbly recommend me unto your good lordship, and have received the King's most gracious letters and yours, touching the resignation of my poor office in the monastery of Ambresbury; according to the purport of which letters and your good advertisement I have resigned my said office into the hands of the King's noble grace, before the commissioners thereto appointed; trusting that such promises as the same commissioners have made unto me for assurance of my living hereafter shall be performed. And so I most humbly beseech your good lordship, in the way of charity, to be means for me unto the King's highness, that I may be put in surety of my said living, during the little time that it shall please God to grant me to live. And I shall continually during my time pray to God for the preservation of the King's most excellent no[ble] grace, and your honourable estate long to endure. At the poor monastery [of] Ambresbury the 10th day of this present month, August.

"By your poor O[ratrice],

"Florence Bo[rme]we],

"Late Prioress [there]."

In A.D. 1501, Queen Katharine of Arragon upon her arrival in England lodged here on her progress to London from Exeter: and the following instructions were issued for her reception.

"To be lodged on Saturday 30 Oct. at Shaftesbury Abbey that night and the next day following which shalbe the Sonday, and Monday all day which shall be All Alonday [All Hallows day].

Item ij or iij myles befor she come to Shaftesbury to be mette with Sir Morys Barowe, John Mompesson, Thomas Long, John York, and others to convey her to Ambresbury, and ther departe.

Item the Tewsday next ensuying which shalbe the ijth of the said moneth (2 Nov.), the said princess accompanyd with the said Sir Morice Barowe and th'oder shall disloge from Shaftesbury and drawe towards Ambresbury, and ther loge the next night in thabbey.

Item it is appoynted that my Lady of Norfolk, with certain ladies awaiting upon her, at the naming of the quene and my lord tresourer, be at Ambresbury

upon Monday the xxvth day of October, ther and then to mete and receyve the said princesse after the maner folowing, that is to saie, my lord tresourer, accompanied with the Bishops of Bathe and Hereford, the abbots of Abindon and Redyng, my lord Daere of the South, my lord Zouche, Sir Robert Poyntz, Sir Wm. Sandes, Sir John Seymor, Sir Christopher Wroughton, Sir John Brereton and Sir John Chok, to mete her iij or iiij myles befor she come to Ambresbury. And the said Duchess of Norfolk to receyve her after her offring in some convenient place betwix that and her loging; at which tyme Wm. Hollybrand which shall awaite upon her, shall in the Spanyshe song, in the name of the said duchesse, welcome the said princesse with such wordes as be delyvered to him in writing. And that the said duchesse have warning therof, and the said Hollybrand, by my lord chamberlayn.

Item that there be a chare redy at Ambresbury the same tyme for the said princesse to put her in the next day, or at any other tyme when it shall please her.

Item the Wensday next folowing (3 Nov.) she shall disloge from Ambresbury and draw towards Andover and ther loge in the inn of Thaungell." *

The monastery and its precincts, including garden, orchards, fishponds, cemetery, &c., covered 12 acres of ground. No plan or view of the buildings appears to be in existence, and of their style or character nothing is known. In the beginning of King Edw. IV.'s reign, about A.D. 1461, they had suffered by fire. This we learn incidentally from an old document called "A Wrytyng annexed to the will of Margaret Lady Hungerford and Botreaux;" in which she recapitulates all the costs and expenses she had been put to by the troubles that befell her family in the Wars of the Roses.

"Item, at such tyme as I was by the Chanceler of Ingland put in the Abbay of Amesbury, and ther kept by the Kyng's comm'ndement, by fortune of fyre all my meovable goods, that is to say, beddis of cloth of goolde, beddis of aras and of silke, hangyngis of aras for hallis and chambris, plate, monay, and other stuffe, to the value of a Thousand pounds and more, and the chief loggyng of the same place where I was in, cover'd with lede, by the said infortune was brent and pulled downe, of which the new bilydyng and amending coste me £200: sum £1200."

The monastery was granted at the Dissolution (31 Henry VIII.) to Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford (afterwards the Protector Somerset): and with it so much of the estates as had been held in their own occupation by the nuns. This consisted of 290 selions of arable land called "Acres," lately cultivated by the Prioress, and valued at 4d. an acre per annum: feeding for 374 sheep in the common pasture of Ambresbury: a piece called the Park, 6

* Letters and Papers illustrative of H. VII. Gairdner, vol. i., p. 407.

acres: 22 acres of meadow in Helemede, Lavender Mead, Le Folds, Rackmead, Birchmead, and Abbey Bekermead: four dovehouses, a fishery in the Avon, and the value of 2 waggon-loads of wood every day throughout the year, from Chute forest, Grovely and Bradley wood, granted to the monastery by Henry II. One of the grounds is described in the Earl of Hertford's original Register of Estates, (from which these particulars are taken) as "*lying next the great stones called Bounds.*"

"Lands appoynted to th'Erle of Hertford in EXCHAUNGE betwene Kyng's Majestie and the seid Erle. (*Original at Longleat.*)

xxviij.^o Die Januii.

Ano xxxij.^{do} Henr. viij.

	£	s.	d.
Fyrst, the yerly value of the lands of Shene		cvi.	iiij.
Itm, the lands of Saint Margaretts, Marleburgh	ix.	v.	vij.
Itm, the lands of Saynt Augustine juxtà vill. Bristol ..	iiij.		
Itm, the lands of Bradenstooke valuyd at	xviij.	xviij.	
Itm, the lands of Ambresbury, valuyd at.....	xi.	xiiij.	
Itm, mor of the seid monastery	xliij.	v.	vij.
Itm, of the late monastery of Bathe.....	vi.	o.	x.
Itm, the lands of the late monastery of Henton	xviij.	vi.	vij.
Suma Tot ^{lis} . of all the premysses.....	cxvi.	xvii.	ij.

Addē therto for the soile and spryng of the woods of Buckholte yerly..... xxxii. iiij.

And so the holle lands appointed to the Erle of Hertford with the spryng of the woods of Buckholte, persons Throte and Noddes copis dothe amounte yerly to the Some of } cxiiij. ix. vi.

Wherof deduct yerly for the Tenths xi. xviij. o, and so remayneth clere cvi. xii. vi.

The vallue of the woods of Buckholte, The copis called Throte and Nodes to be sold *hac vice* for Reddy mony clij. xv. iiij.

The vallue of the leades of Ambresbury—Cv foodders vi^{cwt}. de vi^{lib}. wherof abated for the wast and melting as yt apperethe by the certificate of the Comysioners vi. foodders xiiij^{cwt}. iii. qrts.. and there remayneth clere ^xxiiijviii. foodders xi^{cwt}. iii. qurtes vi^{lib}. wiche ratyd at iiij^{li}, the fodder dothe amounte unto the somme of £cccxciij. vij. iiij.

M^d. the Kyngs lands dothe amounte to the some of £cvj. xij. vi. Wherof ther ys to be abatyd for the Recompence of the lands of the seid Erle lxix^{li}. v^s. v^{li}^d. And so remayneth £xxvii. vij^s. 0^{li}^d. Wherof deducte for the Kyngs Gyft £xviij. vii^s. 0^{li}^d.: And so remayneth clere x^{li}. wiche must be Reservyd: and then the holle Reservaycon must be to the Kyng's grace xxi. xviij. o.

M^d. the seid Erle must paye for leade and the woods of Ambresbury in mony to the Kyng £Dxlviij. ii. vij. to be payd in forme followyng: That is to sey in hand c^{li}. And

at the feast of the Nativyte of our lord then next ce^{li}. and at the next said Feast cclxviii^{li}. ii. vii.

M^d. the Kyngs Magestie must discharge the seid Erle of all incombraunces except leasses, and except viij^{li}. for the cellary (*salary*) of a priest to serve the Cure of Ambresbury, and vij^s. vi^d. for synods and proxters (*procurations*) to the Archdeacon of Salisbury.

M^d. that one for the seid Erle must be bounden in Recognisaunces for the woods growyng in the woods of Shene appoynted to the seid Erle. And in the lands called Est grafton, West grafton Burbage, belonging to the late monastery or pryory of Saynt Margaret's juxta Marleburgh: and in the lands called Baggeruge parcell of the possessyons of Saint Augustine juxta vill' Bristoll, Littellcott, the manor of Eston parcell of the late monastery of Bradenstocke: And the Burgage and the parsonage of Ambresbury, late parcell of the late monastery of Ambresbury, And of Lullington, Backyngton, and Longeate cum membris, parcell of the late monastery or pryory of Henton yn the Cowntie of Somerset.

“Rychard Ryche.”

That the Earl of Hertford, coming into possession of a vast range of monastic buildings, the tenants of which had been scattered and the establishment finally extinguished by law, would desire to take down the larger part of the monastery itself, was perhaps to be expected. But that for the sake of the value of certain tons of lead, a fine church should have been stripped and spoliated of all that was not only upon it, but within it, must be pronounced to be an act of simple barbarism. That the Crown officers did so with respect to Amesbury Church, will be shown beyond doubt from the following papers.

The first of them is preserved in the Augmentation Office: and has been already printed in Sir R. C. Hoare's History of S. Wilts. (Hundred of Ambresbury p. 67.) It is a paper of instructions as to the monastery and church, issuing of course from the Crown.

“Houses and buildings assigned to remayn undefaced.

The lodging called the Priore's Lodging, *viz*, halle, buttre, pantrye, kytchyn and gate-house, as it is enclosed within oon quadraunte unto the convent kytchyn: the longe stable with the hey barne adjoining: the whete barne, the baking house, and the gate with the gate-house in the base courte.

Committed to the custodie of John Barwik, servaunte to the Erle of Hertford.*

Deemed to be Superfluous.

The Church, Cloister, Frayter, Dormitory and Chaptre-house: the Convent Kytchen, with all the houses adjoining to the same: the old Infirmary, with the Chapell, Cloister, and lodgings adjoining: the Sextery with houses joyning

* See Wilts Arch. Magazine viii, 299.

to the same: the styward's, receyvor's, auditor's and preest's lodgings: and all oder houses in the Base Court above not reserved.

Committed as abovesaid. (i.e. to Mr. Berwick's custody.)

Leades remayning upon

The church, quere, iles, steple, chapells, revestry,* cloister, fraytor, halle and chambers there, with the gutters belonging to the same, esteemed at cexxx foders.

Bells remayning.

In the steple there.....	iiij.
Pois' by estimacion.....	Mcccc. weight.

Juells reserved.

To the use of the king's Magestie.....	None.
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Plate of sylver reserved to the same use viz.

Silver gylte.....	ccvj. ounces.
Silver parcell gylte	cxl. ounces.
Silver white.....	cccxij. ounces.

Ornaments reserved.

To the use abovesaid, viz.	None.	£	s.	d.
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The ornaments, goods and chattels sold by the commissioners realized	147	5	2
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Whereof was paid to 33 late religious women, of the King's reward	74	3	4	}	105	11	8
And to 37 persons viz, 4 priests and 33 servants for wages and lyveries,.....	31	8	4				

The debts owing by the Monastery were.....	41	13	6
	20	14	5

And so remayneth clere	20	19	1
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The records and evidences of the monastery ought to be in existence, as they were specially reserved under lock and key "for the King's Majesty."

According to the preceding document there were two consecrated buildings belonging to the monastery, viz., the principal church, and the chapel of the Infirmary. The latter was undoubtedly destroyed. The former was apparently *sentenced* to be destroyed, being "deemed superfluous:" and the following papers certainly describe considerable havoc in stripping off lead, pulling down a spire, selling paving tiles, &c., &c. And further, one of them states that a certain quantity of the lead was reserved "*to be placed upon the chancel of the Parish Church.*" This at first led me to suppose that there must have been *two* large churches: but

* For "Revestiary," Fr. *revestiaire*, Latin, *revestio*: the place where the dresses of the Clergy were repositd.

as there is no trace or tradition of any other large one than the present parish church which is of great antiquity : and as the measurements of the monastic church corresponded very closely (as the documents show) with those of the present church, it is most likely that (as at Edington in Wilts), one and the same building served both for the monastery and the parish. This seems to be confirmed by the fact that in the Episcopal Registry at Sarum (as printed in the "Wilts Institutions") there are no Presentations of a clerk to Amesbury church before the Dissolution of monasteries. The Abbess had been Rector and had supplied a chaplain for parish work : and in the Earl of Hertford's "Exchange" (printed above) it is particularly stated that on becoming owner the Earl was charged with £8 a year "for the salary of a Priest to serve the Cure."

The following papers show that before the Dissolution there was upon the present square tower, a spire 61 feet in height. Also a high altar and choir 51 feet long, a chapel of our Lady and a chapel of St. John ; both of which may perhaps be identified by the *piscinæ* remaining, two in the modern vestry, and one in the S.E. angle of the present south aisle of the nave. Against the tower walls are still to be seen dripstone lines which may represent the older roofs that were stripped of lead at the Dissolution : and upon the east side of the south transept there are also indications of a chapel or other addition. By the "South Aisle 39 feet long" and the "North Aisle 40 feet long" mentioned in the following papers are perhaps meant the present transepts.

The papers also give some idea of the extent of the monastic buildings : viz., a cloister 104 feet long, a dorter (or dormitory) 200 feet long ; a "Frater" (or refectory) 110 feet ; a "Jesse,"¹

¹ A "Jesse" in architectural language is generally understood to have been a particular kind of window : in which the mullions appear to spring from a recumbent figure of Jesse, the father of King David : the different compartments of the window being so arranged as to contain his various descendants : the whole being a representation of the genealogy of Christ. No account of any *building* or part of a building so called having been met with, it may be conjectured, in default of better information, that there may have been at Amesbury Monastery some gallery or large room, at the end of which may have been a Jesse window : and the *apartment* being remarkable from that peculiarity, may have been called "the Jesse."

110 feet; and a hall 70 feet. Among other apartments mentioned were Kent's chamber 65 feet, the Abbess's chamber 25 feet, the old parlour 22 feet; Joan Horner's chamber, Maurice Halcombe's chamber, and some small ones called The Leaden Chambers.

The documents alluded to, relating to the destruction of Ambresbury monastery, were lately found at Longleat.

No. 1. "The Content of the lead upon the late monastery of Ambrusburie viewed by Christopher Dreye and George Hinde, plumbers, at the comaundement of Thomas Cumine the King's Sergeaunt Plumber xxijth of September, the xxxijth yere of the reign of our Soverayn Lord King Henry the VIIIth.

	Foder	cwt.
Furste, a stepe roof over the High Altar and Quire covered with lead, in length 51 foot, and in depth on either side 24 foot	6	15
Item, a spere roof over the steeple covered with lead, in height 61 foot, containing 8 panes (<i>sides or faces</i>), every pane in breadth at the skirts 10 foot, and in the middle 7 foot, and in the top the taper grown to 6 inches.	10	0
Item, a steep roof over the South aisle, covered with lead, in length 39 foot, and in depth on either side 24 foot	5	0
Item, a steep roof over the North aisle, in length 40 foot, and in depth on either side 20 foot.	4	2
Item, a steep roof over the body of the church, covered with lead, in length 120 foot, and in depth on either side 24 foot.	14	6
Item, a flat roof over the Vestry, covered with lead, in length 22 foot, and in depth over 16 foot	0	15
Item, a flat roof over the Chapel of our Lady, covered with lead, in length 32 foot, and in breadth on the one side 13 foot, and on the other side 12 foot ...	1	12
Item, a flat roof over St. John's Chapel, containing six times ten foot square and 50 other foot.	1	6
Item, a flat roof over the Cloyster, covered with lead, containing 4 squares, every square in length 104 foot, and in depth 12 foot.	12	0
Item, a flat roof over the Dorter,* covered with lead; and in length 200 foot, in depth on either side 18 foot.	20	18
Item, a flat roof over the Frater,† covered with lead, in length 110 foot, and in depth on either side 15 foot	7	16
Item, a flat roof over the Jessye, covered with lead, in length 110 foot, and in depth on either side 16 foot	7	16
Item, a flat roof over the Hall, covered with lead, in length 70 foot, in depth on either side 14 foot.	3	2
Item, a flat roof over Kent's chamber, covered with lead, in length 65 foot, and in depth on either side 10 foot	2	12

* Dormitory; in French, dortoir.

† Refectory.

Foder cwt.

Item, a flat roof over the Abbess's chamber, covered with lead, in length 24 foot, and in depth on either side 14 foot.	1	10
Item, a bastard roof over the old parlour, covered with lead, in length 22 foot, and in depth on either side 22 foot	2	3
Item, a little entry from the Hall to the Kitchen with a vice (<i>spiral staircase</i>), covered with lead.....	1	0
Item, a roof over Joane Horner's chamber crested with lead	0	10
Item, a roof covered with lead over the little chamber, called The Leaden Chambers	2	0

No. 2. Extracts from "William Nottingham's Payments for costs and charges of trying, melting and casting of the lead, 31 March, 32 H. VIII."

The work lasted 10 weeks; John Plomer 6d. a day with meat and drink. John Roger, carpenter, 6d. a day, finding himself. "The same John for pullies and ropes to make tackling to pluck down the spire." Five other men 6d. a day, finding themselves. They worked on Good Friday, "lacking four hours."

On Thursday and Friday in Easter week the spire was plucked down. On the 2nd July the glass was pulled down, and the iron was weighed.

Other items were for 'penny halters and halfpenny halters, spades and showels,' 'gress for the pollis' (*grease for the pullies*), handbarrow, sand, a mason to make the furnace, &c.

Wm. Bawdewyn was the watch-man who sat up all night to watch the lead and for his vigilance he received 4d. a night.

For 2lb. of gunpowder bought at Sarum, to fire the great timber of the steeple. 2s. 8d.

For 2 line cords, one to fire the gunpowder in the steeple and the other to make fast the great gable 12d.

For the hire of Mr. Bunday's horse to ride to Easton (*near Pewsey*) to speak with Mr. Berwyk about the pulling down of the steeple 4d.

For an ox hyde to make a pair of bellows to melt the lead ashes 6s. 8d.

For a load of charcoal to melt the same ashes 8s.' "

No. 3. "Receptis of the Superfluous Houssis of the lat Monastery of Amesbury belongyng to the Rygth Honorable Erylle of Hertford, A°. R. Henrici Octavi tricesimo primo. (31 Hen. VIII.)

	s.	d.
Item, x th day February, Umpfre Lovyngbone for a Silyng (<i>ceiling</i>) and bords of one Chamber by the Lytell Cloysters....	iiij.	
Item, xvi. day Feb., Nicholas Noors of Chaldryngton for pavyng tyell before the hye Auter, The Vestre, with all the Gryffes Stonys (<i>grave-stones</i>) befor the hye Auter.....	vij.	
Item, iiij day Marche, Thomas Hayle, Tudworth; for ij Tombe Stonys in the North Ile	v.	
Item, xij day March, The Churchwardens of Shypton for a porcion pavyng tyell yn the Sowth Ile by the church dour.....	ij.	ij.

Item, xth day Octobr, Willyam Chafyn, Boltisford, for a Tombe
ston

s. d.
xx

Soma.

ⁱ. xix. x

Solde by my Lordis comadement.

Ultimo die August A^o. R. Regis Henrici Octavi xxxij.

Item, xvi Sep., Amis Collens, Netherhaven for xv pavyng tyells
and viii booshells Tyell shards

xvi

Item, xii day Oct., Hugh Long, West Amesbury, for the Olde
Stabulls, contaynyng iiij Rooms, The tyell of a cuttyng at the end
by estimacion cc. : wythe alle the face stonys to the same house be-
longynge.

xxvi. viij

Item, xxx Oct. Warnar Hayle of Rumsey for a fayt (*vat*) that
was in the Covent Laundre

iiij.

Item, xiiij Feb., Wylllyam Notynggham, Amesbury, for the Payll
(*paling*) by the Churche door, the Covent Syde, the Semitory
(*cemetery*) in the Parke

x.

Item, xxiiij Feb., the Church wardens of Fitulton for one Plot
pavyng tyell yn the Great Cloyster

ij.

Item, Sir Wylllyam Edway, Amesbury, for sertayn olde glasse and
thre pounds olde irene

xii.

Item, iij June, Mathew Kyngton, Ludgersall, for the dorter dour

viiij.

Item, John Monday, Buddisden, for sertayn Greyn stone, not
halfe a loode

viiij.

Item, xvij June, Wylllyam Sowyth gent., West Amesbury, for
the Rooffe of the Vestre, with all the Tymber to the same be longyng,
a chambur yn the lytell Cloister of xv footes longe, xvij foots brode,
the Stere lofte Silyng, with all the Tymbur of the same. Also one
Tombe stone of the Lesser sworte (*sort*)

xl.

Item, John Sadlar, Amesbury, 1 grond syll pece, ij smale pecis

x.

Item, xvij June, Mathewe Kyngton, Ludgersall, for a lytell
housse that stode in the Covent syde

xv.

Item, viij July, Nicholas Smyth, Amesbury, for ix pecis of olde
tymber, and for a part of a olde Steres

ij.

Item, xj July, Thomas Fyveasch, John Richards, Church-
wardens, Fytulton, for sertayne pavyng Tyell in the gret Cloister,
a plot at the dorter doure

iii.

Item, xvij July, John Andrewes, Amesbury, for the boords of the
flour yn the Leeden halle

ij.

Item, xix July, Robert Pederell, Amesbury, for the Midel house
by the parke, the Rooffe, too flours, the Steres, with all the Tymber
contayned withyn the stone walles of the same. Item, the seyd
Robert to take downe the Sclat, too cary the same, and set hytt in
goode order at hys coste and charge

xxx.

Item, xx July, John Andrews, Amesbury, for serteyne Tymbur
of the Spyur, as Rafturs, wyth other Short peces of the Norythe Ile

ix.

Item, xxvi July, Bawden Lenton, Duryngton, for the Tymbur and bords of the flour of wygth (<i>white</i>) chambors, wyth too peces Tymbur of the Spyure.....	ij.	iiij.
Item, xxvij July, Nycholas Smyth, Amesbury, for all the Tymbur and bords of the gret Cloister lackyng one loode.....	xlvi.	viiij.
Item, Nicholas Smyth, for the Sylyng and Tymbur of Maistris Darell's Chambur, In the Jesse	ij.	
Item, xxvij July, Thomas Atkyns, Boltisford, for bords and tymbur of the flour of Jane Hyldislee's Chambur, and iiij bords of the flour of Maris Alcom's (Maurice Halecombe's) Chambur	ij.	
Soma,	£x.	o. xiv.

— Anno R. Henrici Octavi xxxiiij.

Item, xxiiij Sept. John Coulls, Amesbury, for the broken wode that fell downe of the Spyur, and of the Roof of the Sowyth Ile, with ij other Rafter pecis	ix.	
Item, the same day, Symon Reef, Chesunbury, for a hundred and tene pavyng tyell in the Chapter house	xvi.	
Item, ij Oct., Wyllyam Ratway, Amesbury, for one Rafter pece of the Spyure	ij.	
Item, the same day, Gylbart Netherhavyn for viij boosheles tyll shards, and for sertayne Greyn ston that was smalle.....	xvi.	
Item, v Dec., Wyllyam Crasse, Chesonbury, for a hundrede and a hallffe pavyng Tyell	ij.	
Item, Gafere Gunter, Fytulton, for ij c. pavyng tyelle		
Item, vj Dec., Michael Scot, Amesbury, for j lytell wyndow, ij wyndoolyddes, ij letell tymbur pecis, a planke v foots long, xij foots tymbur, A porcion Tyell shiards and broke	ij.	iiij.
Item, viij December, Thomas Haull, Oxsonwode, for the particion of the parlar chambur that was Maistr ^{ss} . Cristina Hyldislee's, The tymbur, the lytell buttre, joynyng to the particion. Also the Buttre doure	iiij.	viiij.
Item, xxxj Dec., Richard Root, Alyngton, for vj boosshells Tyell shardes	v.	
Item, xvij Jan ^r . Thomas Haull, Oxsonwode, for ij hundred thre-score pavyng Tyell	iiij.	
Item, xxiij Jan ^r , John Symons, Duryngton, tyell shards		
Item, xxiiij Jan ^r , Thomas Goldyng, Netherhavyn, for halffe c. Greyn batts,* j booshell Tyell shardes	v.	
Item, xxvj Jan ^r , John Lege, Netherhavyn, for vij boosshells Tyell shardes.....	vij.	
Item, for a bour-stye be hynd the Gret baryne (<i>barn</i>)	vi.	
Item, xxvij Jan ^r , Robart Rodmon, Tudworth, for seveyne boosshells Tyell shardes.....	vij.	
Item, iiij February, Thomas Smyth, Haxton, for x boosshells tyell shards, and viij Greyn Stonis.....	xi.	

* Perhaps broken pieces, as we now say, a brick-bat.

	s.	d.
Item, Sir Stevyn Lioness, Vicar, Amesbury, for a privy house by the hen-cowrts, and for vj pecis of the Tymbur of the Stepull . . .	xxij.	
Item, xxv Aprill, John Bochar, Duryngton, for one loode greyn ston, that war of the low seyts (<i>seats</i>) of the gret Cloister	xvi.	
Item, ij May, Robart Leare, Amesbury, for vj tymbur pecis . . .	vij.	

Som. totall	} £	s.	d.
Receptis	} xii.	xij.	ij.

Tymbur delyvered to the Tenants of Amsbury.

Item, Robert Payn, to the Reparyng of the Singe (<i>sign</i>) of the Georg, at sundre tymes	xxxvi	pecis
Item, to the Reparyng of the Sowyth baryne (<i>barn</i>)	xviiij	pecis
Item, to the Reperyng of Robart Harison's housse	xxvj	pecis
Item, John Andrews, j dour, ij pecis tymbur	xviiij	pecis
Item, Arnolde Greke, glasiar, hade to Wolfall of newe glasse, lxvj foots. Item, of olde glasse, xx foots.		

PAYMENTS.

	s.	d.
Item, Umpfre Lovyngbone, John Rogers for Takyng downe the Sylyng of the Quere, and to cary and lay the same in the Plombmary lofte	xxx.	iiij.
Item, Alan's borde, hys ij men as from Monday after none to Saturday After None to wasche the leed asches	ij.	viiij.
Item, for a Iron showall that Alan be spake of John Coulls, smyth, to make clene the leed that he caste		vi.
Item, for a cord lyne to mesure the Spyur, the woods of Buckholde, for a lyne to mesure the spyur when the King's plumbmers cam to Amesbury		vi.
Item, John Richards, to warne Thomas Benet to have hys helpe, to mesure the woods of Buckolde	iiij.	
Item, John Gylle, John Adams, Thomas Yongs wyffe to make cleen the halle chambers, the Curt, the Covent chamburs and the fylthy places ther agenst my lords fyrst comyng to Amesbury . . .	xxij.	
Item, for mending a loke to set a pon the Covent garden, mending the dour, a loke sete a pon the wycket, a key to the dour whar the crests lyethe		viiij.
Item, for mending the parke payll		iiij.
Item, a basket of quynses that Maister Thyn causyd to be send to my Lord's place at Seyn. (<i>Sheen, co Surry</i>)		viiij.

Soma xliij^s.

PAYMENTS. A°. R. Hen. VIII., 33 and 34.

Item, Wyllyam Bauden for takyng upe cel pavyng tyell yn the ender chamber of the parlar	ij.
Item, Nicholas Sarvyce, for takyng upe the pavyng tyell in the vestre, the parlar, a part of the tyell yn the inder parlar, a part of the cloister, a part of the Chapterhousse : and to bere the same into the Noryth Ile	x.

Item, takyng downe the Sylyng of the Wygth (<i>white</i>) Chambur, Sylyng of Mastris Warder's Chambur yn the lowur end of the Jesse, and to cary the same into the Covent Kychyne.....	s.	a.	xx.
Item, Umpfre Lovingbone, John Rogers, for ij dayes worke to make the stabulls necessary for my Lord's Great Horsis, vi ^d . ob. a day fyndyng them seles.....	ij.	ij.	
John Rogers for naylls to the same worke..		ij.	
Item, for caryng vj loods hay to the stabulls.	ij.		
Item, Wyllyam Scamell hys costis for caryng a horse loode quyn- cis from Amesbury, to my Lord's place at Seyne.....	iiij.		
Item, to take downe the gret wall that was particion of the Myd- quere, to have outh the leed that ther was cast, And to breke downe one part of the Great Cloister. To have the leed outh of the fraterie and to ryde the same at both ends..			
Item, Wyllyam Bawdwen, Robart Tappen, Harry Cane, John Showell j day, iiij ^d ., fyndyng them selles			xvi.
Item, John Rogers, Wyllyam Wylchmone to make a dray, to convey the leed and to make a barrall for the Gyne (i.e. <i>engine</i> , <i>perhaps a windlass</i>), and to amend the same			vj.
Item, —pere trace harnes to draw the leed outh of the church and Fraterie, to the beeme and from the beeme			vi.
Item, xxxi May and i June, Willyam Notyngnam at Sarum ij days, to newe way (<i>to weigh anew</i>) the sowes of leed that the marchaunds had resevyd, and to try the weyt after Alen's marke			xii.
Item, the sayd Wyllyam, one day at Sarum wyth Alen, to newe way and try a part of the sowes leed.....			vi.
Item, Wyllyam Welchmon, Harry Russall, John Sadlar, Thomas Hulle, at Alen's beyng at Amesbury one day, to waye serteyne sowes in the churche, in the Fraterie, a part of the sherts leed yn the hall, a part of the small Sowes in the plombmery vi ^d . a day fyndyng themselves	ij.		
Item, the same Wyllyam, Harry, John, Thomas, ij days to nombre and way xx Tones of the small Sowes and Sheyts, for my Lorde, vi ^d . a day, fyndyng themselves	iiij.		
Item, Richard Willowes. John Watts, halfe a day to helpe them aforsayd to cary the leed outh of the halle to the plombmery....			vi.
Item, for ij Roopes to bere sowes. ij harters to bere the shettes leed from the low halle to the plombmere.....			iiij.
Item, for a polle (<i>pulley</i>) of brasse that was lost at the departyng of Aleyn and John Plumbmer	x.		
Item, for a locke and key for the chapell chambur wher the glasse and Iren lyethe, and i key to the chambur at the hy haull end....			x.
Item, to John Andrews, that restyd a pon hys bille for the fyrst caryag of my Lord's leed to Hampton and the second	xiiij.		
Som: totall } £iiij. xvj. ij. of this Payments }			

Paymentis for takyng downe the Rooffes of the church, the
Quere Dorter, with th'other byldyng ther, xxi day August, Anno
R. R. Henrici VIII., 34^o.

The Roofe of the Gret Quere	sum total	xxvii. ^{s.} ^{d.} iiijob.
The roofe over tho hy Autar.....	ditto	viiij. vi.
The roofe of the Dortor, the loft, with all the particions undur the dortor	}	xlix. v.
The Roofe of our Ladye Chapell, the Roofe of the Leeden Hall ther, wyth all the houssyngs to the same. Allso the ij chamburs jonyng to the Ledden Hall a pon the garden syde....		
Thys Count made the xxviiij day September.		
The Roofe of the Jesse, the portions above and undur the parlar and the roofe of the same, The wygth Chamurs.....	xxxvi.	xi.
The Roofe of the Fraternity, the outhoosis by the old farmery (<i>in- firmery</i>), Maister Horner's housse and Chamburs	xxvii.	vi. ij. v. vi. ij.
Item, for a pully pyn		
— for the dressing of the pully and boxsyng the same.....		
— for iij pere trasis		
— for ij halters		
Item, Richard Tebolde, to move the pavyng outh of the North Ile to make rome for the Tymber		ii.
Som: totall payments for the takyng down of the Roofs £vij. xi. j. ob.		
SOM: OF THE HOOLL PAYMENTS £xi. vii. iij. ob.		
Debet Som. to be paid of this A count xxv ^s . x ^d . ob.		

No. 4. The Charge of the meltyng, castyng and weyng of the
leade at Amysburye the last day of Marche, 32 Hen. VIII.

Among the items were,

	s.	d.
To John Colls, smyth for the makyng of a skemer, a cole-rake, a fyer forke, iiij crowe barrs, one rake, one hoke pyn, one prychell (*), certen gret naylls of my lord's iron	iii.	iiij.
Item, for an iron plate to leye in the bottom of the trowe where the leade ran in the pytt.....		viii.
Item, for the mendyng of the greate beme.....		viiij.
Item, for ij pere of hoks for the same beme.....		viiij.
Item, for the makyng and mendyn of hoks to drawe the Sowes of leade.....		iiij.
Item for ij iron Ryngs for the drugge.....		iiij.
Item, for ij lynt pynns for the same drugge.....		ij.
Item, for the mendyng of hoks, pynns, barrys and other tols wh ^h . were occupyed aboute the meltyng of the leade.....		viiij.
Item, for ij spads and shovylls		xxj.
Item, for ij hande barrowes.....		ix.
Item, for ij lyne cords, one to fyer the Gunpowder in the Steple and thother to make faste the greatt Gable.....		xij.
Item, for the fetchyng of the Shovylls and Spads at Sarum.....		ij.
Item for the hyer of Rychard Bundye's horse to ryde to Easton to speke with Mr. Berwyke concernyng the pull yng downe of the Steple.....		iiij.

* Halliwell gives "Prichell, a brake for dressing flax," and "Prijel, an iron tool for forcing nails out of wood." The latter seems the more likely instrument of the two.

	s.	d.
Item, for iij peny halters and ij halfpeny halters.....		iiij.
Item, for a hogghshed to kepe water.....		x.
Item, for grese for the pulleys.....		j.
Item, for ij lods of erthe to make the pyt to melte the leade....		viiij.
Item, for iiij lods of Sande to cast the lede.....		xvj.
Item, for ij lods of erthe to make the leade pyt in the Frater....		viiij.
Item, for iiij lods of sande to caste the leade there.....		xvj.
Item, to Thomas Alen's servant mason to make the furnes wher the lede ashys were melten		x,
Item, for ij lb. of Gunpowder bought att Sarum to fyer the grett tymber peces of the Steple.....	ij.	viiij,
Item, for ij lb of Gunpowder bought at London.....	ij	
Item, for an oxe hyde to make a pere of bellowes to melte the leade ashys. Mr. Alen hath theym.....	vi.	viiij.
Item, for a lode of Charcole to melte the same ashys.....	viiij.	
Item, for a rope borrowyd of John Androes for the weyng of the leade.....		viiij.

The sum total of the hole charge £xiiij. vs. iiij^d. (This included the men's wages for several weeks.)

Wherof Receaved for lede by him sold to diverse men iiij^{li}. xiiij^s. v^d.: and so resteth more to the saide Nottingham ix^{li}. xi^s. ix^d. the whiche is allowed to him in the fote of his account for the prouffitts of the demaynes and parsonage of Ambrosbury for oon year and an half, ended at thannuntiation of O^r. lady, A^o. xxxiiij^o. R. Henrici viij, and so even.

No. 5. Thys porcion of my Lord's leede delyvered from Ambrosbury to Hampton, by Aleyn's marke, the 1st day August A^o. R. Regis Henrici 8^{vi}. xxxiiij^o.

Sowys of leede, 100, weighing 29^{tons} 18^{cwt}. 0^{qrs}. 13^{lbs}.¹

This was conveyed by carts hired from Douse and others of Collingbourne, Wm. Nowis and others of Ursaunt (Urchfont), John Burden and Edmund Longe of Kaninge, J. Collet of Allyngton, Ryng and Rowemans of Newton and Manningford, Maton of Enforde, Thos. Hunt of Chesenbury, Alexander and Giles Thystylthawrt of Winterslowe, R. Ocorne of Farley, Symon Cane and others of Wynterbourne, Thos. Byggs, Isabel Fosterde

¹ The "Sows" of lead were not all of one and the same weight. Dr. Johnson says "An oblong mass of lead or unforged iron, or mass of metal melted from the ore, is called, I know not why, *sow metal*, and pieces of that metal are called *pigs*."

and others of Stapulford, and Thos. Noors of Bedywn.

Leed delyvered to Robert Steward, sadler in London 5 tons, 5 lbs.

Ditto to John Berenger of Hampton, marchant, 9 tons, 19 cwt. 26 lbs.

The number of Sowys delyvered to Robert Eyre and Thomas Sembarbe marchants of Sarum, 162 tons, 6 cwt. and 6 lbs.

Sold to Mathew Kington, Ludgersall, and John Monday, Buddesden, sheyt leed 3 cwt. and 11 lb. at 3s. 4d. the cwt.

Sold to Alexander Auckar, and Robert Peris, Church wardens of Netherhaven, vii *clothes*,* weighing 1 ton, of lead, at £4 the ton.

Lead delyvered to Marchaunt of Hampton to be sent to Jersey for Gunshot 28 June, 34 H. VIII., 30 cwt. 3 qrs. 11 lbs.

Total number of Sowys of leede delyvered in all places, 637, containing 209 tons, 17 cwt. 2 qrs. 18 lbs.

Over and above John Howell plombmer layde a pon the *Chaunsell of the Parish Church*,† and a pon the Gutter of the Newe Covent Kytchen 5 clothes, weighing 11 cwt. Sum total of Tons delyvered, 210 tons, 5 cwt. 2 qrs. 16 lbs. Lead reserved for my Lord, and returned: 21 tons, 3 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lbs.

It does not appear that any such scene took place at Amesbury monastery church as had kindled Sir John Harington's indignation elsewhere. Speaking of the spoliations at Wells cathedral, he says "Such was their thirst after lead (I would they had drunke it scalding) that they tooke the dead bodies of Bishops out of their leaden coffins, and cast abroad the carkases skarce throughly putrified." [Nugæ Antiquæ, ii. 147.] The graves of the illustrious ladies abovementioned, and of all others buried in the church, have probably been undisturbed.

The Seymours made a dwelling house out of the old monastery, and the Protector's son Edward Earl of Hertford resided here. His third wife was Frances daughter to Lord Howard of Bindon, widow of Henry Prannell citizen of London. Of this lady a very curious account is preserved,¹ and of a tragic incident in her history the scene lay at Amesbury.

"She was one of the greatest, both for birth and beauty, in her time: but at first she went a step backward, as it were, to fetch a career, to make her mount the higher. Her extraction was high, fit for her great mind: yet she descended so low as to marry one Prannell, a vintner's son, in London, having a good estate, who

* Does this mean *sheets* of lead?

†That is, the present chancel, which, as already stated, had probably been used for Parochial purposes during the time of the Monastery. See above, p. 72.

¹ By Arthur Wilson: printed in Brydges's Peers of James I., p. 297.

dying left her childless, a young and beautiful widow : upon whom Sir George Rodney a gentleman in the west, suitable to her for person and fortune, fixing his love, had good hopes from her to reap the fruits of it. But Edward, Earl of Hertford, being entangled by her fair eyes, and she having a tang of her grandfather's ambition,¹ left Rodney, and married the Earl. Rodney, having drunk in too much affection, and not being able with his reason to digest it, summoned up his scattered spirits to a most desperate attempt : and coming to Amesbury in Wiltshire, where the Earl and Countess were then resident, to act it, he retired to an Inn in the town, shut himself up in a chamber, and wrote a large paper of well-composed verses to the Countess in his own blood, (strange kind of composedness,) wherein he bewails and laments his own unhappiness ; and when he had sent them to her, as a sad catastrophe to all his miseries, he ran himself upon his sword, and so ended that life which he thought death to enjoy ; leaving the Countess to a strict remembrance of her inconstancy, and himself a desperate and sad spectacle of frailty : but she easily past this over, and so wrought upon the good-nature of the Earl her husband, that he settled above five thousand pounds a year jointure upon her for life." ²

The Earl's grandson William, Marquis of Hertford, resided here in 1611. (Wilts Mag. ii., 181.) The Marquis's grandson William, third Duke of Somerset, dying without issue, this property passed by Elizabeth Seymour the third Duke's sister in marriage to Thomas, Earl of Ailesbury. In 1720, Charles Lord Bruce sold it to Henry Boyle, created 1714 Baron Carlton ; and he, by will 1729 bequeathed it to his nephew Charles third Duke of Queensberry whose family made large additions by purchase.

A Yorkshire clergyman taking a little tour through Wilts in 1750, made the following note of his visit here.³

¹ Thomas Howard third Duke of Norfolk, who was only preserved from the scaffold by the death of Henry viij.

² Sir George Rodney was of Stoke Rodney, co. Somerset. For the poetical Epistle see the "Topographer i. 398—405

³ MS. Letter by Rev. Richard Woodyear ; 1750.

“Ambrosbury. A large body of a man found here, the thigh-bone 21 inches. Saw the Duke of Queensberry’s: a Chinese House and Bridge, and fine Canals in the gardens. In the House a grand new Room and furniture, Chimney pieces, red and white marble: the fable of the Stork and the Fox carved on them: Emblems of Her Grace’s hospitality.¹ The Barber the best cicerone in the village.”

William fourth Duke of Queensberry died 1810: and in 1824 his estate was purchased by Sir Edmund Antrobus, Bart.

Ambresbury house was built by John Webb from the designs of his master Inigo Jones.² Colin Campbell adopted Inigo Jones’s principles, and fixed “The Ambresbury type” as the mansion of the 18th century. The house has been renovated by Mr. Hopper, architect. The church was restored in 1852 at the expense of Sir Edmund Antrobus.

In the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, vol. iv., p. 27, are woodcuts of three curious old seals found at Ambresbury in 1843: and in the Journal of the Archæological Institute, vol. ii. p. 194, are drawings of two memorial escutcheons with the initials I. D., and K. D. in the church.

Ambresbury was in 1188 the birthplace of Ela Devereux, heiress of the Earls of Sarum, and foundress of Lacock Abbey in Wilts, and Henton Charterhouse Abbey, co. Somerset. That part of the estate which belonged to her family was called Ambresbury Comitis or Earl’s.

In his history of the Hundred of Ambresbury, Sir R. C. Hoare has omitted to mention that the Hundred included some outlying portions of co. Wilts, lying within co. Berks., viz., part of Shinfield, (*alias* Dydenham) comprising an old manor of Beaumys or Beames; Hinton and Haines Hill, in Hurst; Swallowfield, including Farley, and Sheepridge: and Wokingham, some part. J. E. J.

¹ Lady Catherine Hyde, daughter of Henry, Earl of Clarendon and Rochester, the “Kitty, beautiful and young” of Prior’s Ballad, “The Female Phaeton.” For an account of her see Burke’s Romantic Records, vol. ii., p. 31. As one of the three coheiresses of Henry Earl of Clarendon in 1753, (the other two being the Countess of Essex and lady Mary Forbes), she succeeded to one third share of the great Lord Clarendon’s pictures.

² Walpole’s Anecdotes of Painters, &c., iii., 168.

